

F. L. Dadds
R. M. Jackson
the writer

Rue de la Citadelle, voie 85.
Hanoi Nov. 10th 1919.

Dear Friend:

We believe that you are praying for the work of the gospel in Indo-China, and doubtlessly you will be interested to know a few facts concerning the beginnings of the gospel in this northernmost station of Hanoi. The gospel according to Mark tells of "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus, the Son of God." We are all familiar with the fact that it began in God and in our Lord but sometimes overlook the fact that there is a beginning in the lives of individuals and in the history of nations. In this land, there has ~~as yet~~ been, as yet only a beginning and your prayers are going to prove a decided factor in determining what the continuance shall be.

Three years ago, Mr. & Mrs. Cadman commenced work in this city and the result is a little band of christians—I wish you could meet with them. They are from various classes, but all one in love and in Christ; one is a sculptor, another a tailor (and a good one too) another works on the railway, one works in an office etc. A week ago we broke bread together and it was a precious time. It isn't easy to be a christian here as there is a good deal of opposition. Will you pray that God will keep them true as they stand alone in this ~~that~~ large city, and that they may be filled with the Spirit of love? It isn't for our native preacher alone that we want you to pray but for this little group altogether. Peter preached so that 3,000 were converted but is not the secret revealed in the little band of Spirit-filled christians who stood with him, so that in reality he was only their spokesman?

Each week we conduct two evening services for the unsaved. A week ago our preacher was ill and our language teacher, who is a baptized christian, said he didn't like to speak on short notice; he suggested that I should speak in French and he would translate into Annamese. This meant a beginning for Mr. Missionary as he had not yet attempted to speak in either French or Annamese. The beginning of the meeting wasn't very encouraging as quite a few decided to leave before the first ten minutes of speaking. ~~was~~ However we had a good time and finished up stronger.

Last Friday we had decided to have no service as both preacher and teacher were sick. At the last minute we received a note from the preacher saying, "Come at once—I have a message and we can't keep the chapel closed. We must hold a service." After he had spoken that night, I sat on one of the benches and listened to a conversation between himself and another man. I couldn't understand every word but I did get the drift of their conversation and it was sweet. This man had never heard the gospel before and was asking about the bible. He was very interested and listened attentively to all that our preacher had to say. Don't you think that the Spirit of God planned the service that night?

Last night, just as the meeting was over, a young Annamese came in and walked quickly up to the front of the chapel. Mr. Jackson shouted when he saw him and I suppose you wonder why? We do have to shout once in a while at robbers and sometimes do more than shout, but this was a different sort of shouting. Our young friend is a medical student and he speaks English very well

having been three years in Singapore. He is keen and intelligent but best of all he has a burning love for Christ and for souls. He stands alone among 150 medical students in this city.

We came home after the meeting—a brilliant moonlight night and Mr. Swan (that's the English pronunciation of his name) came along with us. He likes to sing—most saved folks do—and so we sang and then had a little prayer meeting together. His heart was full and he prayed a prayer that when God answers will mean an outpouring of God's Spirit upon these people. I believe it will be worth your while to back him up.

There are a number of other beginnings that I might mention. For instance, Language Study is a very interesting subject, especially as it centres around the Word of God. Our preacher was illustrating the story of Philip and the Eunuch a few weeks ago. We have our own ideas of a chariot but with him a chariot was a rubber tired poose poose drawn by a coolie with a big wide brimmed Annamese hat. And sometimes when he illustrates or talks about feasts you may be sure that there is lots of rice on the table—Once though he didn't stick to the bible for he had an alarm clock on the table.— Contrast with this a little shrine or temple not far from here, I will pass it to-night. It isn't any more than six or eight feet square and has two stories. It is the smallest that I have seen here and is on one of the main streets of this city. In front you will see a number of women every evening offering incense and bowing with hands held out in front of them. But here is the contrast, the preachers alarm clock has been captured as a gospel illustration while covering the whole wall of this temple on one side is a big Singer sewing machine.

There is a young man in France who has recently commenced a bible training course and hopes to return to preach to his own people. A friend of his recently released from military service writes bright letters to our teacher (By the way remember our teacher in prayer. We have just given him two months holidays as he is very ill. His brother in law is with us now and is a christian but not yet baptized. He prayed at morning devotion this morning and hardly knew how but he will come on) So you see there are many indications that the Word of God is sprouting and bearing fruit. God is beginning to work out His plan for this land. There is much to report from Tourane where Mr. Irwin and others are working and soon there will be a strong witness down in Saigon. When Mr. Cadman returns from furlough the press will be run again and on a larger scale. There is great future for these people if we will let God have His way.

Would you live for Jesus and be always pure and good?

Would you walk with Him within the narrow road?

Let Him have His way with you.

Would you in His service labor always at your best?

Let Him have His way with you.

Sincerely yours in Christ.